

# **CITY OF DANBURY**

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**19 NEW STREET**

**DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810**

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**Fire Chief**

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June 28, 2004

Mayor Mark D. Boughton  
Common Council  
City of Danbury  
155 Deer Hill Ave.  
Danbury, Ct. 06810

**Re: Statement of Condition and Property, Danbury Fire Department  
City Code of Ordinances 8-13**

Dear Mayor Boughton and Members of the Common Council,

In accordance with Section 8-13 of the City Charter the following report is offered as to the listing of property and a general statement of condition and affairs of the Department.

The Danbury Fire Department continues to operate as a combination department with five career stations and 12 volunteer stations. The City owns and maintains six volunteer stations, with the remainder owned by the volunteer companies. The current table of organization shows 111 members of the career department. Current membership rosters of the 12 volunteer companies approach 150 individuals inclusive of social and support members. The fire department continues to hold the certificate of operation for the ambulance service and first responder program. The ambulance and paramedic services are currently contracted to Business Systems Inc., while the department continues to operate the first responder response.

**Facilities and Property**

The following City owned fire stations and facilities are currently in operation.

The Joseph J. Bertalovitz Fire Headquarters - 19 New St.

Melody/Halas Station 23 - Osborne Street

Commerce Park Station 24 - Eagle Road

Fire Training Center – Plumtrees Road

Padanaram Hose # 3 – North Street.

Independent Hose # 4 – Hoyt Street.

Wooster Hose # 5 – Coal Pit Hill Road

Citizens Hose # 6 – Jefferson Avenue

Water Witch # 7 - Locust Avenue

Phoenix Hose # 8 - Well Avenue

The Department also has a rental agreement for Station 25 located on South King Street. This rental is paid to the King Street Volunteer Company #14 on an annual basis.

The Division of Prevention/ Education/Inspection operates out of office space at City Hall. The Fire Marshal's office continues to operate under the jurisdiction of the Fire Department.

### **Status and Condition**

**All City owned fire stations are operable at this time.** We continue to work with the Public Buildings department on matters of repair and maintenance.

The **Fire Training Facility** is being used for outdoor and mobile trailer fires only. The burn facility at the fire school has been condemned due to structural deficiencies. Over the past year the grounds have been cleared and through a cooperative effort with Woodland Hills, improvements to the site are taking place. The City Engineering department and Building Inspector have completed plans to replace the current structure. The project should be bid in the month of July. All applications for grants and outside funding on the State and Federal level have been denied at this time, we will continue to pursue additional avenues of funding.

**Fire Headquarters** continues to suffer severe space constraints as previously detailed. Our 30-year-old kitchen has been replaced with a commercial grade facility. Currently our lavatories are undergoing a renovation which is providing a cosmetic upgrade to the old restrooms. Plans are being formulated to renovate the current bunk room portion of the headquarters facility. Cooperative efforts between the Public Buildings and Finance departments combined with our firefighters make these projects possible.

Security locks and surveillance cameras have been installed this past year. The Northeast Utilities conservation program is back on track after funding to NU was cut. We hope to update our electrical and lighting plan to become more efficient.

**Station 23 Osborne Street** is currently operating without major structural issues. All systems are operable. A reoccurring problem with the brick façade continues to be monitored.

**Station 24 Commerce Park** is currently operating without major structural issues. All renovations are complete at this time. Furniture has been replaced as well. The City Engineering department continues to evaluate sinking areas of the landscaped property, no determination has been made to date as to a solution.

**King Street Station 25** continues to operate. The facility is not adequate for the needs of the Department. Recent decisions have been made to renovate the existing facility with an addition. Funding is available via past bond issues. The decision to expand rather than construct a stand-alone facility was based on many factors. Drawings are complete, with the successful negotiation of the new lease, variances and approvals will be sought. Construction is anticipated to begin this year.

**Station 26, West Side – Proposed** is now funded. Architects and Engineers have been selected. July meetings will begin the design phase with construction to begin by year's end.

**911 Emergency Dispatch Center** continues to operate out of the first floor of fire headquarters. This facility, as has been identified in the past needs to be relocated as soon as possible. The new technology that has entered the communications arena render this facility obsolete. Relocation is currently funded at a \$300,000 level. Architects and engineers are evaluating both stop gap and permanent solutions for this current crisis.

**Volunteer Stations # 3 Padanaram, #5 Wooster, #6 Citizens and # 8 Phoenix** are currently operating without major structural difficulties. Functionally and cosmetically they remain antiquated and marginally meet the operating needs of the companies. These four buildings however are in need of evaluation as they are fatigued. No funding is in place at this time.

**Volunteer Stations # 4 Independent and #7 Water Witch** are currently operating without major structural difficulties.

### Fleet Inventory and Condition

Apparatus and fleet vehicles owned by the department are detailed below. **Our current fleet is totally operational at this time.** The department continues to standardize the fleet for better efficiency in training and maintenance. In June of 2004 an order was placed for our new platform aerial truck. This vehicle which has a 9 month delivery schedule will replace our 1981 Platform truck which has served the City and our Department well.

Added to our fleet this year were a state of the art decontamination trailer, light tower and heavy duty mobile air compressor; all secured through grant funding. We will continue to pursue funding opportunities for our four- wheel drive vehicles which to date have not been funded.

<b>MARKER #</b>	<b>YEAR</b>	<b>MAKE</b>	<b>MODEL</b>	<b>V.I.N. NUMBER</b>
NA	81	GRUMAN	1251 LADDER TRUCK	16165-HV
52DA	85	CHEVROLET	STEP-VAN	1GBJP32M4F3315333
27DA	88	G.M.C.	SIERRA	1GDJR34W0JJ503710
236DA	91	FORD	EXPLORER	1FMDU34X4MUD13903
351DA	93	CHEVROLET	LUMINA	2G1WL54T3P9232877
145DA	93	CHEVROLET	CAVALIER	1G1JC8441P7299936
47DA	93	CHEVROLET	CAVALIER	1G1JC8447P7299472
267DA	93	CHEVROLET	CAVALIER	1G1JC8443P7299288
54DA	95	CHEVROLET	TAHOE	1GNEK13K7SJ413654
34DA	97	FORD	CROWN VICTORIA	2FALP71W0VX178445
43DA	97	FORD	CROWN VICTORIA	2FALP71W2VX178446
251DA	99	CHEVROLET	CAVALIER	1G1JC1242X7162093
216DA	99	CHEVROLET	CAVALIER	1G1JC1243X7162197
66DA	99	CHEVROLET	CAVALIER	1G1JC124XX7161340
44DA	01	CHEVROLET	TAHOE	1GNEK13T11J217863
NA	87	MACK	CF686FC	1M2A142C6HM-1668
NA	88	MACK	CF688FC	1M2A152C4KM-1312
NA	94	PIERCE	ARROW	4P1CA02D2SA000127
NA	96	PIERCE	SABRE	4P1CT02U7TA000426
NA	00	PIERCE	SABRE	4P1CT02U6YA000232
NA	00	PIERCE	SABRE	4P1CT02U5YA000237
NA	00	PIERCE	DASH	4P1CT02S8YA000750
B.S.I. 22DA	86	FORD	F-350	1FDKF37L7GNA86070
B.S.I. 880	93	FORD	F-350	1FDKE30M7PHA42798
B.S.I. 883	96	FORD	F-350	1FDKE30F3THA0178
B.S.I. 135DA	98	CHEVROLET	CK10706 TAHOE	1GNEK13R9WJ356036

B.S.I. 68DA	01	FORD	CROWN VIC	2FAFP71W11X187226
B.S.I. 1274	00	FORD	F-350	1FDWE35F7YHA72672
DA	03	HONDA	ODYSSEY	5FNRL18523BO25346
59DA	03	FORD	TAURUS	1FAFP52U73G154371
142DA	03	FORD	TAURUS	1FAFP52U53G154370
26	03	FORD	TAURUS	1FAFP52U93G154369
51DA	2003	FORD	TAURUS	1FAFP52U73G154368
79DA	2003	FORD	F250 4X4	1FTNX21L13EB32200
NA	2003	PIERCE	SABER	4P1CT02UX3A002798
2247	2003	Advanced Containment Systems	MDT 228 Decon Trailer	1A9VFLT2031247556
317DA	2003	SULLAIR	AIR COMPRESSOR	
297DA	2003	INGERSOL RAND	LIGHT TOWER	

## Equipment

The department continues to purchase and replace equipment to meet the needs of an evolving fire service. Over a two year period the department expects to see approximately \$1.2 million in grant funding from State and Federal sources. We currently have been receiving equipment from the FEMA Fire Act grant program. The funding has made a dramatic impact in the quality of equipment the department is using. The Department of Homeland Security continues to provide funding to assist our City in preparing for terrorist activity. The Mayor and Common Council have provided support to enhance these initiatives, some results are listed below.

Current purchases and initiatives include the following:

1. The completed replacement of protective clothing for firefighters to a new higher-grade material and construction.
2. The completed addition of voice amplification systems to air masks to improve communications.
3. The completed purchase of replacement of vehicle extrication equipment on our apparatus to meet the new materials and construction we encounter in accidents.
4. The continuing addition of technical rescue equipment and training for new hazards being encountered.
5. The addition of approximately \$700,000 in equipment and training funds from the Department of Homeland Security to assist in response to potential acts of terrorism.

6. The continued scheduling of advanced rescue and WMD classes in an in-house format to maintain our high level of preparedness.
7. The funding through LOCIP for replacement of automatic defibrillators to enhance our first responder medical program.
8. The soon to be completed replacement of front line breathing apparatus with units designed for a higher degree of safety and accountability.
9. The completed purchase of additional cold/water ice rescue equipment. This equipment compliments the new inflatable rescue craft and motor.
10. The continued purchase of Thermal Imaging units striving to provide career and volunteer companies with units.
11. The continued installation and enhancement of Mobile Data Terminals to enhance firefighter response capabilities and information.
12. The completed purchase and training of rope rescue equipment for low and high angle rescue situations.
13. The continued purchase and training of hazardous materials response equipment. The upgrade of the Department response to an actual technician level team continues to evolve.
14. The delivery of a decontamination trailer to enhance our current capabilities.
15. The continued development of relationships with vendors and technical experts to maximize the benefit of available funding to our City.

### **General Statement of Affairs**

**The conventional operations of our department are sound.** Equipment, current and proposed facilities will continue to assist our firefighters in delivering quality emergency services. Funding for apparatus and facility improvements on the local level have been greatly appreciated. The support of the City Administration and Common Council has made a visible difference in the fire department over the past 2 ½ years.

The department continues to prepare and train for the prospect of future incidents and the potential use of weapons of mass destruction. Despite the challenge to our Department's response capabilities we will continue to explore all options on a local regional and State wide level. The continued challenge will be in the arenas of preparedness and finance as well. We will continue to take advantage of training

opportunities provided and funded by the Department of Homeland Security. Grant opportunities will be explored and pursued diligently

The decline of our volunteer contingent remains a concern as this component is critical to the success of delivering quality service. Initiatives of consolidation and Civil Service incentives are currently being explored. We must continue to work hard in these areas. Historically, in times of crisis our volunteers have stepped forward to assist in great numbers. These past events have been shining moments for the department and this City.

There remains a concern on adequate staffing. Combined with the development of our volunteer contingent, the City must begin to understand in greater detail the need for additional staffing on a regular basis. OSHA safety standards and National agency recommendations will inevitably increase minimum staffing levels. We have seen with increasing frequency the difficulties encountered with our current minimum staffing levels. As a City that has grown to the seventh largest in the State, the challenges of expansion need to be addressed. Areas of development both commercial and residential have stretched current resources. The analysis of future growth trends and the services required would be prudent.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment as per section 8-13 of our City Code of Ordinances. Your comments as to the format or considerations with regards to this report and our Department as always are greatly appreciated. If you require any additional information please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Very truly yours,

Peter J. Siecienski  
Fire Chief